

In The Claims

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1. (presently amended) A synthesized oligourea comprising ~~all or part of the a~~ basic-arginine rich region of Tat.

2. (original) A method of inhibiting the binding of Tat protein to Tar RNA comprising introducing the oligourea of claim 1 into a cellular environment wherein the inhibition is sought to occur.

3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the cellular environment is one infected by the HIV-1

4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the oligourea of claim 1 binds to the TAR RNA of HIV-1, thereby limiting the binding of Tat to TAR RNA.

5. (presently amended) A synthesized oligourea comprising ~~all or part of the~~ sequence disclosed in Figure 1A.

6. (presently amended) A synthesized oligourea comprising ~~all or part of the~~ structure disclosed in Figure 1B.

7. (original) A method of inhibiting the binding of Tat protein to TAR RNA comprising introducing the oligourea of claim 5 into a cellular environment wherein the inhibition is sought to occur.

8. (presently amended) The method of claim 6 7 wherein the cellular environment is one infected by the HIV-1.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the oligourea of claim 5 binds to the TAR RNA of HIV-1, thereby limiting the binding of the Tat to TAR RNA.

10.(original) A method of inhibiting the binding of Tat protein to TAR RNA comprising introducing the oligourea of claim 6 into a cellular environment wherein the inhibition is sought to occur.

11.(original) The method of claim 10 wherein the cellular environment is one infected by the HIV-1.

12.(original) The method of claim 11 wherein the oligourea of claim 1 binds to the TAR RNA of HIV-1, thereby limiting the binding of Tat to TAR RNA.

13.(presently amended) ~~The~~ A composition that has a high and specific binding affinity for a nucleic acid, comprising oligourea.

14.(original) The composition of claim 13, wherein the oligourea additionally has amino acid side-chains incorporated at the R₁ and R₂ positions of the chemical structure in Figure 1B.

15.(original) The composition of claim 14, wherein the amino acid side chains correspond in sequence to those of a nucleic acid-binding protein.

16.(original) The composition of claim 15, wherein the amino acid side chains correspond to the Tat protein.

17.(original) The composition of claim 16, wherein the amino acid side-chains correspond to residues 48 – 57 of the Tat protein.

18.(original) The composition of claim 17, wherein the amino acid side-chains correspond to SEQ ID NO:1.

19.(original) The composition of claim 18, wherein the amino acid side-chains correspond to the SEQ ID NO:1 with a L-Tyr amino acid at the carboxyl-terminus.

20.(original) A method of inhibiting a protein-nucleic acid interaction, comprising introducing the composition of claim 13.

21.(original) The method of claim 20, wherein the composition of claim 13 is introduced into a human patient.

22.(original) The method of claim 21, wherein the composition of claim 16 is introduced to a human patient infected by the HIV-1 virus.

23.(original) The method of claim 20, wherein the composition of claim 13 is introduced into an isolated cell.

24.(original) A kit comprising the composition of claim 13 in a container

25.(presently amended) A kit, comprising the composition of claim 13 in a container and instructions to carry out the method of claim 20.

26. (original) A composition of claim 13, which binds to nucleic acids, which has a disassociation constant (K_D) less or equal to $0.70 \mu\text{M}$.